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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TECH CENTER 2700

Applicant: Toru MATAMA

Appl. No.: 09/150,010 Group: 2712

Filed: September 9, 1998 Examiner: UNASSIGNED

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

L E T T E R

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

January 11, 2000

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is
hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
08/741,722	October 31, 1996	2724
08/943,597	October 3, 1997	2724
09/327,952	June 8, 1999	2852
09/327,954	June 8, 1999	2722
09/337,491	June 22, 1999	2722
09/266,937	March 12, 1999	2851
09/209,751	December 11, 1998	2853
09/276,831	March 26, 1999	2852
09/156,399	September 18, 1998	2851
08/873,032	June 11, 1997	2724

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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DJD/scd